IDENTIFICATION AND SECURITY BADGE REQUIREMENTS

I am concerned about the ability of unauthorized personnel to gain access to Range facilities without notice or challenge. Consequently, in the interest of promoting a greater sense of physical security at our work places, I am directing all White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) workers, including contractor employees, to prominently wear identification and/or security badges while on duty at the Range. Exceptions to this directive are noted below.

I believe it is important that we have the means to readily identify members of the Range work force from visitors or other persons that might be found in one of our facilities. Additionally, it is important that we all be able to distinguish federal government employees from contractor and other non-government personnel. The simple act of wearing distinctive badging while on duty will aid us in achieving these goals.

Many of us already possess the WSMR security badge, which identifies personnel who are authorized access to controlled facilities throughout the Range. Unfortunately, though, there is no uniform policy that addresses the wearing of this badge. Additionally, other members of the WSMR work force have no badge whatsoever for wear while on duty. To remedy this, the WSMR Security Directorate will issue identification badges to WSMR-Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) employees and contractors, as appropriate. Currently, the Security Directorate is in the process of issuing new security and identification badges to all WSMR-ATEC personnel. This effort will be complete by February 1, 2000. All WSMR-ATEC employees who require a WSMR identification or security badge should contact the Security Directorate at 678-3238. Contractors stationed at White Sands should first coordinate any request for badges with their WSMR contract officer before contacting the Security Directorate.

Upon receipt of their badge, WSMR-ATEC employees will prominently wear either a WSMR identification badge or a WSMR security badge while on duty. Non-ATEC activities at White Sands will ensure that their personnel wear identification badges and/or the WSMR security badge, whichever is appropriate. Contractors stationed on White Sands will ensure their personnel wear distinctive identification badges that clearly indicate the wearer is a contractor employee. Again, these badges must be worn while on duty in and around Range facilities. All visitors to Range facilities that require badging will either be issued a security badge by the sponsoring activity or be escorted by badged personnel at all times.

Employees with the following activities are exempt from this requirement: the White Sands School; NAF activities (i.e., AAFES, MWR, and concessionaires); the commissary; the library; the education center; the chapel; banks or credit unions; the post office; and the child daycare facility.

All supervisors and their security coordinators will ensure compliance with this directive. I further ask everyone to exercise sound judgment by recognizing that on occasion operational or safety requirements will dictate that a badge not be worn, or at least removed temporarily.

Failure to abide by the terms of this policy may result in negative administrative and/or disciplinary action, or punitive action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Questions regarding this policy, to include any requests for exceptions, should be referred to your office's security coordinator or your contracting officer, as appropriate. Issues that cannot be resolved at that level should then be directed to the Security Directorate, at 678-2727.

Again, I am convinced that the simple act of wearing an identification or security badge will serve two important purposes. First, we will all be able to identify at a glance the presence of visitors or other unofficial persons at our work places. Second, the badges will allow everyone to readily distinguish government personnel from contractor employees - a matter of growing importance when addressing issues involving the processing of sensitive proprietary information. I ask all of you to support me in accomplishing this important initiative.

HARRY D. GATANAS Brigadier General, USA Commanding

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